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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/014,588	12/14/2001	Yoshinori Asamura	0925-0189P-SP	2015

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EXAMINER

BELL, PAUL A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2675

DATE MAILED: 11/20/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/014,588

Applicant(s)

ASAMURA, YOSHINORI

Examiner

PAUL A BELL

Art Unit

2675

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 December 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 1. 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirgurashi et al. (6,222,593) in view of Van Court (5,917,552).

With regard to claim 1 Hirgurashi et al. teaches a multi-display projector (figure 1, item 8, column 2, lines 23-39) comprising: a display pattern memory for storing display parameters which designate a region of an image to be displayed (column 2, lines 40-47); and a displaying means which displays said region of the image by processing said active image signals stored in said frame memory based on said display parameters (figure 1, items 7a, 7b, 7c, 7d and 8).

Hirgurashi et al. does not teach "an input pattern memory for storing input format parameters which specify; the number of active pixels, the number of active lines, the initial active pixel, and the active initial line of input image signals having arbitrary formats, said format parameters being stored for each of said formats, a frame memory for storing active image signals

extracted from said input image signals based on said input format parameters"

Hirgurashi et al. instead only teaches using input images from a PC.

Van Court teaches "an input pattern memory for storing input format parameters which specify; the number of active pixels, the number of active lines, the initial active pixel, and the active initial line of input image signals having arbitrary formats, said format parameters being stored for each of said formats, a frame memory for storing active image signals extracted from said input image signals based on said input format parameters (See Van Court figure 3 and column 1, lines 40-67 "measuring characteristics of the video signal").

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the Hirgurashi et al. apparatus to handle more than one input format as taught by Van Court because it provides a product that can also display TV signals which is useful in the home environment making the device even more commercially marketable to more people.

With regard to claim 2 the combination of Hirgurashi et al. and Van Court teaches a multi-display projector claimed in claim 1, wherein: said display parameter further including the horizontal offset and the vertical offset which designate the

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amounts of displacement of the display position when the display position of an image is displaced horizontally and vertically; and the position of a display image in the displaying means is adjusted by changing the values of said horizontal offset and said vertical offset (It is obvious that since each projector displays a different region that the horizontal and vertical offset within the original image would be used in order to spatially match up the regions with the correct projector see Hirgurashi et al. figure 1, item 8).

With regard to claim 3 the combination of Hirgurashi et al. and Van Court teaches a multi-display projector claimed in claim 1, further comprising: an A/D converter for converting analog image signals to digital image signals, wherein the input pattern memory stores parameters of said A/D converter based on which said analog image signals are converted to said digital image signals (See Van Court figure 3, items 17, 18 and 19).

With regard to claim 4 the combination of Hirgurashi et al. and Van Court teaches a multi-display system comprising: a plurality of multi-display projectors as claimed in claim 1, said multi-display projectors being arranged in both horizontal and vertical direction; and controlling means for controlling the operation of each of said multi-display projectors (See Hirgurashi et al. figure 1, items 7a, 7b, 7c, 7d, 8 and 3).

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Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paul Bell whose telephone number is (703) 306-3019.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377 can help with any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application.


Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Or Faxed to: (703) 872-9314 (for Technology Center 2600 only)

Or Hand-delivered to: Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Sixth Floor
(Receptionist).


Paul Bell
Art unit 2675
November 17, 2003


CHANH NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER